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NEWS BRIEFS
**REV. LYONS INDICTED
FOR RACKETEERING
AND THEFT**

ST. PETERSBURG—A week after a *City News* report regarding the Reverend Henry Lyons retaining the services of F. Lee Bailey, the president of the 8.5-million-member National Baptist Convention U.S.A., Inc., was released on \$100,000 bail after being charged with one count of racketeering and two counts of theft. Lyons was accused of defrauding the Anti-Defamation League of nearly \$250,000 it donated to rebuild burned churches in the South. If convicted, he could face 30 years in prison. He has also been accused of accepting \$350,000 in secret payments from Nigeria's military government.

**OFFICERS FACE 25
YEARS FOR THEFT
CAUGHT ON VIDEO**

IRVINGTON—Four off-duty officers caught stealing goods were indicted by a state grand jury.

The officers, who could face up to 25 years each if convicted, were observed on video tape taking a variety of items from a warehouse and loading them into the trunk and front seat of two police cruisers. "If this is what went on, we're pleased with the outcome," said Deputy Police Chief James Gally.

**TYSON PREPARING
\$45 MILLION LAWSUIT
AGAINST DON KING**

NEW YORK—Lawyers for suspended boxer Mike Tyson are preparing a fraud suit against boxing promoter Don King.

Reports say that the suit will be for at least \$45 million. Accountants for Tyson say that in addition to King taking 30 percent of his earnings for six post-prize matches, including his two losses to Evander Holyfield, he was paid an exorbitant fee as a promoter for the same fights. King faces re-trial on insurance fraud charges on March 18.

**TEACHER FINDS
BOOKS OF VALUE IN
HER POSSESSION**

NEWARK—An assistant teacher found that two volumes of poetry left to her by her father were signed by Harlem Renaissance figure Langston Hughes. Tonya Wilson, who works at the New Jersey Regional Youth School, said that although she knew that the books were original copies of Hughes' work, she had no idea they were inscribed by him until she flipped through the pages at school. The books were inscribed to entertainer Josephine Baker, who gained fame during the 1920's in France.

**SEX OFFENDERS TO
BE KEPT LOCKED UP
WITH LEGISLATION**

TRENTON—Governor Christine Whitman submitted draft legislation that will expand the state's ability to keep sex offenders locked up under civil commitment laws.

The proposed legislation will allow the state to involuntarily commit persons who have committed sexually violent offenses and who suffer from mental or personality disorders which will make them likely to engage in repeat acts of sexual violence.

The decision regarding civil commitment will be made by the court. Following the initial civil commitment, the court would be required to conduct an annual review to determine if continued commitment is necessary.

Tossing the babies out with the bath water: Kemba Smith and drug mandatory sentencing Laws

By Gillian Foster
Special to the NNPA

The American prison population is being ethnic in a new and disturbing face: Female, young and Black.

One of the most well-known belongs to Kemba Smith, the daughter of a teacher and an accountant. She was at the beginning of a promising college career at Hampton University in Virginia, when she fell in love with Peter Hall, reputedly the head of an East Coast drug ring. The steamy romance soon dissolved

into an abusive relationship and Kemba, fearing for her safety and that of her parents, did what she was told.

One might have thought that her nightmare would end when Hall was found murdered by an unknown assailant, but it had just begun. Kemba, then three weeks pregnant, was advised by prosecutors to plead guilty to cocaine-conspiracy charges, even though she had never sold or used drugs. Her family thought she would receive leniency. Instead, under mandatory drug sentencing laws, she got 24 years without the possibility of parole.

Law enforcement officials described Kemba as a "mule," an insignificant player in a drug operation who physically carries drugs from one point to another.

There are hundreds of cases like Kemba's across the country. According to NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDEF) President Elaine R. Jones, many of these female inmates are victims of physical and emotional abuse, and often partake in crimes under duress. Under mandatory sentencing laws, such mitigating factors are not taken into consideration. As a result, the number of

women prison inmates has skyrocketed—with the rate reaching as high as 828 percent over a five-year period.

"Kemba's story provides a window into understanding how the impact of sentencing policies are placing a generation of first-time, non-violent youthful offenders into the criminal justice system," added Jones, who will file a petition to reopen Smith's case.

"Non-violent offenders, who have historically been given short sentences and often assistance with job training and educational opportunities are now being locked up for

years. Sentencing policies are waging a war on our communities, especially our youth who are being robbed of their futures."

The expanding prison population is rooted in the disparity in sentencing laws that punish defendants of crack cocaine—largely African American—with penalties 100 times more severe than defendants convicted of powder cocaine, which is the drug of choice for Whites. A person convicted of possessing five grams of crack cocaine can expect to receive the same sentence as a person possessing 500 grams of powder cocaine.

Statue of Jackie Robinson unveiled in Journal Square

JERSEY CITY—Jackie Robinson made his debut as a member of the Montreal Royals, the farm team of the Brooklyn Dodgers, in an opening day game played to a capacity crowd, against the Jersey City Giants on April 18, 1946. That eventful day included not only Robinson's debut but the whirl of activity surrounding it, including a mob of reporters from both the black and white press and two marching bands.

The Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF) recently commemorated this event, and culminates its 50th Anniversary celebration of his breaking the color barrier in Major League Baseball before another surging crowd, with the dedication of a 12-foot bronze statue of Jackie Robinson at the Journal Square PATH station in Jersey City before a capacity crowd. Rachel Robinson, founder of JRF, as well as Governor Christine Todd Whitman, and Leonard S. Coleman, Jr., JRF's chair, attended the ceremony.

Biographer Arnold Rampersad recounts the day that began the break-down in baseball's color line, and the eventual death of the Negro League. Rampersad writes, "For him, the moment was fraught with emotion. 'I remember the parades,' Jack would recall, 'the brass band playing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the marvelous beauty of this "day of destiny" for me."

In describing the game itself, Rampersad continued, "In his first at-bat, which came at 3:04 that afternoon, Jack felt weak in his knees and stomach as he heard the mild cheer that greeted his name. Working the picture to a full count, he then topped a weak grounder to the Giants' shortstop, who threw him out with ease. But the next time up, in the third inning, Robinson exploded to a fastball chest-high and down the middle. The ball jumped from his bat and carried high and far until it dropped into the left-field stands, more than 340 feet away. As he passed third base Jack beamed at Clay Hopper, who patted him on the back. George Shuba, moving in from the deck circle, pumped his hand vigorously as he crossed home plate.

Susan Wagner, the artist who created the Roberto Clement memorial statue at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, sculpted the statue of Jackie Robinson based on one of his well-known sports poses. The finished statue is cast in 14" thick Everard bronze and weighs more than 2,000 pounds.

Also participating in the dedication was Wilton Virgo, a JR Scholar and sophomore attending Princeton University. Governor Whitman took this opportunity to read a proclamation in celebration of Black History Month. The Dickinson High School march helped recall the excellent atmosphere that day in 1946 at Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City.

"This statue will serve as a reminder of the important social



Rachel Robinson, in photo at left, widow of baseball great Jackie Robinson, stands with Governor Christine Whitman and baseball commissioner Len Coleman at the unveiling of the Jackie Robinson statue at Journal Square in Jersey City.

change that Jackie was able to bring about in the country," said Leonard S. Coleman, Jr., chair of the Jackie Robinson Foundation and president of the National League of Professional Baseball Clubs. "The Foundation that bears his name seeks to inspire its JR Scholars to reach for their goals and continue Jackie's quest for justice."

The Jackie Robinson Foundation, a public, not-for-profit, national organization, envisions that Jackie's commitment to activism and social justice is continued through the personal, community and institutional actions of young people as they assume leadership

roles in society. The year, the Foundation celebrates its 25th Anniversary, and every year the Foundation grants college scholarships to promising students of color with financial need, so that they have the resources to attend the college of their choice. During the 1997-98 academic year the Foundation is supporting 165 JR Scholars attending colleges and universities across the U.S. With 92 percent of the scholarship recipients graduating, the Foundation's Leadership and Development Program has the highest success rate among comparable programs in the country.

"The project is an example of creative solutions for improved learning environments and approaches to learning," Volanem said. The program contributes to the rehabilitation of abandoned properties and returns them to the city's tax rolls while giving students an academic program that will lead directly to skilled employment, she said.

The course for students will use computer design technology in addition to requiring math skills for planning, materials and job estimates, Volanem said.

Newark shops for a bank

NEWARK—The Municipal Council is accepting proposals from area banks that seek to become the primary depository of the city's money, worth \$450 million a year with about 30,000 monthly transactions.

The ten banks vying for consideration are Fleet Bank, First Union, Broad National, The Bank of New York, City National, Penn Federal, Chase Manhattan, FNC, Ironbound Bank and Summit Bank.

The city clerk announced a mandatory meeting for prospective bidders. The meeting, attended by Council President Donald Bradley and chaired by at-large Council Member Donald Tucker, head of the Council Banking Committee, and co-chaired by West Ward Council Member Ron Rice, chairman of the Economic Development/Finance committee was recently held in city hall.

Councilman Rice explained that the city usually approves deposits annually, has been making recent approvals on a quarterly basis. "We have serious concerns about banking practices, including that of redlining, lack of participation in the community, and the lack of opportunity for business and employment in the city's economic development in the residential community," Rice said.

The ten plan request for proposal (rfp) laid out the terms and stipulations for the prospective banks. The proposals should mainly consist of three parts: technical, which deals with the required specifications of the financial institutions; responses to a questionnaire; and qualitative, in which the institutions



Committee co-chairman Ronald Rice

must describe their fiscal initiatives for Newark and explain how their partnership with the city will benefit housing, economic development, and cultural and social programs.

"It doesn't make sense for Newark to take a back seat, while the banks where the city does business dictate to us," Rice said. "The city must have more negotiation power."

Bank representatives were given a list of commercially viable re-development areas that are of interest to the council. They are: South Orange Avenue, Broadway, Orange Street, Springfield Avenue, Clinton Avenue, Elizabeth Avenue, Bergen Street, Mount Prospect Avenue, Wilson Avenue, Avon Avenue, Lyons Avenue, Chancellor Avenue, Central Avenue, 18th Avenue, Hawthorne Avenue, Bloomfield Avenue, Ferry Street, and Lafayette Street.

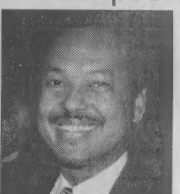
Cooper gets new nomination for HUD post

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) recently announced that President Clinton will nominate Cardell Cooper as Assistant Secretary of Community Planning and Development in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"Cardell Cooper is a natural for this job," said Lautenberg, the senior Democrat on both the Senate Budget Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds HUD. "His experience as a mayor and his passion for public service will serve the nation well. It is especially good news for us in New Jersey because Cardell will be administering programs that are crucial to our state. As a member of the Appropriations and Budget Committees, I look forward to working closely with Cardell Cooper for New Jersey and the nation."

Cooper, who must be confirmed by Congress, would replace Sam Ramirez, who is leaving to become HUD's Deputy Secretary. Andrew M. Cuomo is the HUD Secretary.

The Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development oversees grant programs to help communities with growth and development, including the Community Development Block Grant program, the HUD small cities program, the HOME housing program, programs for shelter for



Former East Orange Mayor Cardell Cooper.

the homeless, the AIDS housing program, neighborhood development programs, YouthBuild, empowerment zones and enterprise communities and HUD environmental programs and initiatives such as the new brownfields program created by Senator Lautenberg.

Cooper was previously nominated to a post in the Environmental Protection Agency, but that nomination was withdrawn. Lautenberg, who is now working closely with the Clinton administration on Cooper's nomination, said it became the victim of partisan fights over the reauthorization of the Superfund program.

Students rescue old Plainfield houses

PLAINFIELD—The Cardinal Continuing Company is an unusual coalition of school, city and civic organizations which will restore city houses using approximately 20 high school students in a cooperative learning program. Once a building is restored, it will be used for low income housing.

The program got its official kick off on recently at 124 Johnson Avenue, the house purchased from the city of Plainfield for \$1. High school students enrolled in the project will spend half of their school day learning building trades while the remainder of the day is spent on meeting the high school requirements for a school diploma under the direction of course instructor Walter Kikias.

The Plainfield Board of Education is the lead agency in the coalition through

the School Based Youth Services Program, located at Plainfield High School. The City of Plainfield contributed the house of Johnson Avenue while the Snyder Foundation, a philanthropic organization, contributed funding, as did the Youth Build Program, a Federal program that supports building projects with funding.

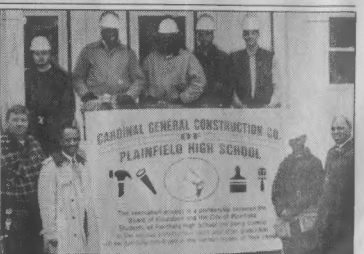
The students in the program will learn demolition, roofing, installing windows and doors, applying siding as well as foundations and other architectural walls. Curriculum also includes training on electrical and plumbing installation, insulation, flooring and using a range of tools.

"The undertaking, is an exciting way to give students on-the-job training who may not be interested in going to

college," said Louise Volanem, director of the School Based Youth Services. "Students in the program will gain experience in managing and growing an enterprise in addition to acquiring workplace readiness skills," she said.

"The project is an example of creative solutions for improved learning environments and approaches to learning," Volanem said. The program contributes to the rehabilitation of abandoned properties and returns them to the city's tax rolls while giving students an academic program that will lead directly to skilled employment, she said.

The course for students will use computer design technology in addition to requiring math skills for planning, materials and job estimates, Volanem said.



The Cardinal General Construction will train Plainfield High School students in various construction skills.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

PLAINFIELD—Urban Women's Center presents women and media workshop on "Resisting Violence Against Women and Girls in Film: Images for Media Activism and Social Change," from 10 a.m. to noon at the YWCA. To register, call 908-756-3500.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—"Zora Neale Hurston's dramatic theatrical biography of the 'Queen of the Harlem Renaissance,' will be presented in a FREE production at Montclair State University's Memorial Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 973-655-5112.

JERSEY CITY—Social worker, Maria Martinez, will speak on "Hispanic Women and Their Relationships," 12 to 1 p.m. in the Formal Lounge, Room 217 of Jersey City State College's Michael Gilligan Student Union Building. For more info, call 201-200-3409.

PLAINFIELD—An exhibit of memorabilia primarily from Plainfield area residents will be on view through June 30th. The viewing hours are from 2 to 4 p.m. For more info, call 908-755-5931.

RIVERSIDE—Represent your hometown in the 7th annual Mrs. New Jersey United States Pageant. No talent or experience is required. For more info, call 609-461-7388. Deadlines for entries is March 5th.

GAIRWOOD—Women for Women will present a program on child sexual abuse and visitation disputes at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. in the Main Hall. The program is open to the public. For more info, call 908-232-5787.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

MONTCLAIR—The Office of the County Clerk will process passports, Notary Public Oaths, etc. at Montclair Town Hall from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

TRENTON—The Moon: Fact and Fiction" will be on display at the NJ State Museum through Feb. 21, 1998. This exhibit will examine the scope of current scientific understanding of the Moon, etc. For more info, call 609-292-6464.

UPPER MONTCLAIR—Montclair State University's Talentful programs: "Physics phun," martial arts and "Yes, dear lies and statistics! Our Math." These programs continue through March 17th. For more info, call 973-655-4104.

CRANFORD—"College for Kids" offered at Union County College for ages 4-14 through March 28th. For more info, call 908-703-7020.

JERSEY CITY—Hudson County Community College offers the "College for Day People," a 10-week session through May 17th. For more info, call 714-2127.

JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College offers a series of one-day computer workshops designed to introduce students to computers and software applications on Saturdays. "Introduction to the PC" will be held today. For more info, call 201-200-3089.

MAHWAH—Ramapo College of N.J.'s 16th annual Distinguished Citizens Dinner will be held at the Sheraton International Crossroads Hotel beginning at 8 p.m. For more info, call 201-527-7013.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

FAIR LAWN—"Financial Planning for Women and Their Families" is a free workshop designed for women who want to know more about investment options. This seminar will be from 9 to 4 p.m. at St. Anne's Priory. For more info, call 201-909-0335.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

SOUTH ORANGE—The Office of the County Clerk will process passports, Notary Public Oaths, etc. at South Orange Village Hall from 7 to 9 p.m.

MAHWAH—"Who Cares for Our Elders? A Profile of Long Term Care Providers" will be presented at 4:30 p.m. in the Main Hall. For more info, call 201-520-7050.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

PLAINFIELD—The Literacy Volunteers of America-Plainfield affiliate offers a free Life Skills workshop every Tuesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Tutoring will also be available. For more info, call 908-755-7999.

NEW YORK—The first American retrospective of the work of Pierre-Paul Prud'homme opens at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. For more info, call 212-570-3851.

UNION—Beginning today and continuing every Tuesday, a series of volleyball classes and scrimmages will be held at the Five Forks YMCA of Union. For more info, call 908-527-4900.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

NEWARK—ASPIRA's 21st Annual Luncheon will be held at ASPIRA, Inc. at 12 to 2 p.m. For more info, call 973-484-7554.

New cars for orange police



ORANGE—The Orange Police Department recently placed eight new, and five used vehicles into service. Eight cars are brand new 1998 Ford Crown Victorias, Police Packages. One is unmarked, and one is a "stealth" equipped vehicle. The stealth vehicle is marked, but has no roof lights or markings front and rear. This will make this vehicle undetectable while doing traffic enforcement. The new vehicles were acquired by means of a \$185,000 Federal Local Block Grant and \$18,000 in matching funds by the City. Three used unmarked State Police vehicles, as well as two NJ Highway Authority station wagons, were forfeited funds, with no expense to the City. On hand for the unveiling of these new cars were Mayor Mims Hockett, Jr., Police Director, Richard G. Conte and Police and Fire Chaplain, Padre Clarke, and councilman Allen Barnhardt.

Honor students received scholarships



BLOOMFIELD—Peter-Donnell Boynton of Neptune and Yvette Batson, of East Orange, third and fourth from right, were among 14 students recently inducted into Bloomfield College's new Honors Program at a ceremony on campus.

"In addition to being outstanding students, these individuals have attained excellence in their extra-curricular activities and service work. They set the tone for the campus," said John Noonan, president, Bloomfield College. To support outstanding students is the new honors program, Bloomfield College trustee Bernard Berkowitz and his wife, Rita, in photo at left, have established the Rita and Bernard S. Berkowitz Scholarship through a \$15,000 gift to the College. Batson and Boynton are two of the first four recipients of the scholarship.

Committee chair receives service honor



NEWARK—Thomas P. Giblin, Essex County Democratic Chairman, recently presented a plaque to James Wallace, at right, Chair of the Newark Central Ward Democratic Committee. Wallace was honored for his many years of dedicated service to the Democratic party at a reception held at Essex County College in Newark.

Mentoring at Monmouth



WEST LONG BRANCH—At the AHANA (African, Hispanic, Asian, Native American) Career Mentoring Day at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, Monmouth freshman Kim Fields of Newark, who has a perfect 4.0 GPA, greeted high school and college students from three Jersey counties who attended the annual program that was sponsored by the Monmouth University Educational Opportunity Fund Program. They heard formal presentations from professionals in biology, business, communication, computer science, criminal justice, education, engineering, law, journalism, medicine and social work. Following the presentations, they had opportunity to speak individually to presenters in fields that interested them.

CITY NEWS

Black United Fund is on a mission of service

CITY NEWS—

Defining who we are

Following in the tradition of the Black Press, *CITY NEWS* continues to strive to be the source of black issues, concerns and achievements.

Far from the stereotypes that portray black people in the general media, *CITY NEWS* stories clearly reflect a people who are law-abiding, God-fearing and who value family, education and quality living.

Now, more than ever, black people must come together across religions, organizations, fraternal orders, professions, and communities to make a firm statement about who we are, what we stand for, and what we will do to achieve our collective goals. These goals include religious freedom, equal protection under the law, civil and voting rights, quality education for all black children, quality housing, jobs, access to opportunity and economic development in black communities.

During March, Black Press Month, *CITY NEWS* launches *The Network*, a partnership to unite and inform people throughout New Jersey about the progress of New Jersey's black communities and the people who are making things happen.

For more information, call 908.754.3400 to obtain The Network guide or fax us at 908.753.1036.

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NATIONAL BRIEFS

V.P. and SBA Administrator announce pact with 'Big Three' automakers

WASHINGTON—Vice President Al Gore and Aida Alvarez, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), have announced an unprecedented alliance with the "Big Three" U.S. automakers, General Motors Corporation, Ford Motor Company and Chrysler Corporation, that will benefit minority-owned businesses. The agreement will increase auto contracting awards to minority businesses by nearly \$3 billion over the next three years, a \$500 million increase over current levels, provide more technical and developmental assistance and encourage strategic alliances between minority and non-minority suppliers.

The agreement marks an important public-private partnership. It is also the first time an industrial group of this size and economic importance has engaged in a partnership with the SBA. "Right now, our economy is stronger than it has been in decades," said Vice President Gore. "As we move into the 21st century, our challenge is to make sure that every individual, every business and every community has a chance to thrive. That's why our new partnership with the Big Three is so significant—and that's why the leadership of the auto industry will make such a big difference. By opening the doors of opportunity wider than ever before, we can prove that our growing diversity and our growing prosperity go hand in hand." For more information please contact your local SBA office. For the office nearest you call 800-848-ASKSBA or visit its website at www.sba.gov.

Black Farmers, CBC Denounce USDA Use of Statute of Limitation

WASHINGTON—More than 200 Black farmers and supporters led by J.L. Chestnut, the attorney representing Black farmers in the Pigford vs. the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) class action law suit, give updates on the case at a Feb. 14 Town Hall Meeting coordinated by the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund. This was part of its 15th Annual Farmers Conference, Marketing and Trade Show. The legal charge was launched in an effort to end the systemic discrimination experienced by Black farmers in their attempts to access USDA programs. The case, now in mediation and some Black farmers have been informed by the government that they will not be able to participate in the process because of a statute of limitations. That is, farmers who did not file their complaints within two years of the discriminatory action no longer have a claim against the USDA. Chestnut said that in 1983 the Reagan administration abolished the USDA Office of Civil Rights whereas the USDA Office of Civil Rights never recently reopened the office. "How can you charge folks for not having filed on time when there was no way to file it?" Chestnut asked. Congressman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), shares Chestnut's outrage.

In a Feb. 20, 1998 letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, she said, "This is indefensible. Black farmers need on Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman's promise to resolve these complaints. Neither the Black farmers nor the members of the CBC understood Secretary Glickman's commitment to 'resolve quickly' the Black farmers' complaints to mean that the DOJ would behind irresponsible and far-fetched theories to unilaterally dismiss hundreds of timely filed administrative actions."

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

Liberian refugees returning home

LAGOS, Nigeria (PANA)—Some 6,000 Liberian refugees in Nigeria will begin returning home this month under a voluntary mass repatriation scheme organized jointly by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Nigerian counterpart. The displaced persons, who fled their country at the heat of the bitter seven-year civil war, are expected on their return to join their counterparts in the rehabilitation process, the Nigerian Commissioner of Refugees said. At the peak of the civil war in 1997, which some 150,000 people died, another 800,000 Liberians of its total 2.5 million people fled and were scattered as refugees across West Africa, from Senegal to Nigeria.

100 Black Men to move annual conference from LA

LOS ANGELES, Calif.—In disapproval of Proposition 209, the 10,000-member 100 Black Men of America, Inc. (100 BMOA) announced that it will move its 13th Annual Conference from Los Angeles to Detroit in June of 1999.

At a news conference on the steps of City Hall, officials of the non-profit organization decried the harmful effects of Proposition 209, asserting that it has "effectively denied vast

numbers of minority citizens equal opportunity in employment and education." "By eliminating Affirmative Action in education and employment," said Thomas W. Donoh, Jr., National President 100 BMOA, "Proposition 209 has placed a roadblock in the path of economic and social progress for vast numbers of people eager to become productive members of society."

President Supports Congressman's Education Bill

By Robin Leary
Special to the NNPA from the Philadelphia Tribune

U.S. Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-Pa.), has been a strong advocate of the bill through its passage in the House. And now that he has President Clinton and some 120 Representatives backing him, Fattah is pushing even harder.

Clinton referred to the legislation, which requires the federal government to notify disadvantaged students in urban areas of their eligibility to receive federal aid for college by the time they reach eighth grade, in his State of the Union address.

Fattah said the president's endorsement of his bill "goes far beyond dealing with the next election, it goes towards giving hope to the next generation. Regardless of their economic circumstances, these young people will have the opportunity to live out the American dream."

Fattah said he realizes he may still have a long way to go to get the bill through the next election, if not through the GOP Congress, but he is optimistic about its chances since a number of Republicans support it.

Fattah said the "No Child Left Behind" bill call for disadvantaged children and their parents to be informed before they enter high school, but if they stay in school and get the grades necessary for admission to college, they will be guaranteed a Pell Grant.

The court martial of Sergeant Major Gene McKinney

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Ph.D.

At first glance Sergeant Major Gene McKinney seems like the worst choice for the military's poster boy for social misconduct. When it was announced in July 1995 that he would be the African-American Sergeant Major of the Army's civil rights leaders hailed it as proof of the army's commitment to equal opportunity for Blacks. The appointment was also a personal tribute to McKinney's nearly 30 years of unflinching devotion to the army.

But when a retired White female officer complained that McKinney harassed her, he quickly became the target of an investigation. When six other White women claimed he sexually abused them, he was court-martialed. If convicted he faces 55 years in prison, loss of rank and retirement benefits. While the Congressional Black Caucus and the NAACP have dropped cautious hints that the Sergeant Major is being nailed because of race, and not for violating army regulations, they realize that a too vigorous defense of McKinney would lay them wide open to the charge that they are soft on the issue of harassment whenever a Black man is on the hot seat. So, the job of playing the race card has gone to McKinney. He loudly protests that he is a "victim" because he is being mistreated by jealous White men and women who have to see a Black man climb so high in the military.

He offers three pieces of proof: Army investigators asked every witness whether he was interested only in White women.

Army prosecutors tried to bury all Blacks from the jury. Only one was seated.

The army has brought no charges against 23 generals and senior enlisted men accused of similar sexual misdeeds. McKinney a sexual victimizer who abused his authority? Or is he a victim of a racist military hierarchy eager to toss a Black man to the wolves to cool public rage over its "see no evil" attitude toward sexual abuse? He is probably both.

It would be foolishly naive to completely accept the army brass' word that race does not play a part in the charges leveled against McKinney. The case can't be neatly separated from the murky web of racial stereotypes, negative typecasting, and public misassumptions about Black men. White women

The bill will target grammar schools with a significant number of students in economically disadvantaged families and where dropout rates are the greatest. The bill is designed to be an incentive for kids to stay in school and ultimately pursue post-secondary education.

While these students currently qualify for the Pell grant early adoption of its availability gives students an added advantage. It has been shown that early notification has stimulated learning and the desire to attend post-secondary institutions in students participating in private programs.

Fattah said the 21st Scholars Program is based on private sector models such as the late Dr. Ruth Hayes' "Tell Them We Are Rising" program and the "I Have A Dream (IHAD) program started by Eugene Lang in East Harlem.

In Lang's original class of students, 90 percent eventually graduated from high school or earned GEDs in a school where the projected graduation rate was 30 percent. Another study conducted by Fattah found that 60 percent of those students did pursue higher education.

"It's critical that we try to incorporate the needs of these children early," Fattah said. By expanding the idea of the private programs to encompass the Pell Grant program that goes out to millions of students, Fattah expects to see the results that occurred at the private sector increased many times over.

and sex.

The notion that Black men are rapacious, sexual studs in a perennial cultural hunt for White women is still one of the America's most durable and deadly myths.

The issue exploded in 1996 when a dozen Black drill sergeants at Marine's Aberdeen proving ground were charged with raping, harassing, and abusing female trainees. The men and their defenders screamed that they were picked for prosecution because they were Black.

They were partly right. The case against them was based solely on the word of their White accusers. As usual, the allegations against them were blown up, and publicly sensationalized to make Black men appear to be truth-seekers. It defies belief that if any officials could find no White commissioned officers or non-coms to charge with sexual offenses.

But the prosecution of McKinney and the other Black servicemen isn't a simple case of vengeful, racist White military officials egged on by White women to nail Black men. There was evidence that McKinney had been involved in acts of abuse, and assaults on the women. And there is even more evidence that many women at Aberdeen had been sexually abused by other Black men. After the army sex scandals hit, more than 7,300 calls from women poured into an army hotline complaining of sexual offenses.

McKinney can and should indict military officials for serving him, and other Black men up as public sacrifices for their past sins of abuse and mistreatment of women within the ranks. But no matter how justified his charges, it still doesn't mean that he and the others did not commit those transgressions.

While the army may have done more than any other institution in America to promote racial equality and opportunity, it must do more before it can boast that women and Black men in its ranks can all be that free.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is the author of "The Assassination of the Black Man: The Image and the Mythmaking." "The Crisis in Black and Black." E-mail: ehutch344@aol.com

'Read Across America' involves millions

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The national "Read Across America" celebration organized for March 2, Dr. Seuss' birthday, captured the imagination and the heart of the nation. On that day, literally millions of persons, led by Seuss' monkey book The Cat in the Hat, fired up the country's commitment to literacy and reading by the simple act of picking up a book and sharing its words with a child.

In several states, NA members are contributing books to youngsters in homeless shelters. The North Carolina Association of Educators is

Participants spend more than \$1.7 million throughout the conference.

With a mission to improve the quality of life of our citizens and enhance educational opportunities for African-Americans, members serve as a strong force for overcoming the cultural and financial obstacles that have limited the achievements of African-American youth, with a particular emphasis on young African-American males.

donating 10,000 new books to needy children.

Celebrities lending support in this effort include James Earl Jones, LeVar Burton and Miss America Kate Shindle. Shindle will read at the Moorestown, N.J., elementary school she attended as a child.

Actor LeVar Burton, host of the award-winning TV series Reading Rainbow, explains his involvement: "Inspiring and encouraging a love of reading is one of the most important things a parent or teacher can do for a child. I read to my daughter every day, as my mother did to me."

Guide to the college bound now available

WARREN, Mich.—Chevrolet Motor Division and Ebony Magazine have teamed up to produce and distribute the updated "1997 Guide to the Nation's Historically Black Colleges and Universities," a comprehensive reference for college-bound African American high school students and their parents.

The guide will be distributed free to high schools, leading church congregations and major African American organizations across the country. This guide is a way to acquaint high school students with unique educational experiences available at some of the nation's best ins-

tutions with long traditions of leadership in the African American community," said John G. Middlebrook, Chevrolet general manager.

The 125-page guide includes information on choosing a college and how to apply for admission and financial aid. Eighty-eight colleges and universities are profiled with a full page of information in state-by-state groups.

In addition to distribution through high schools, local churches and community organizations, the guide is available directly from Chevrolet by calling 1-800-201-9571.

Junior Achievement honors Berry Gordy, Jr.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.—Berry Gordy, Jr., founder of Motown Records is among seven legendary business leaders who will be inducted into the Junior Achievement National Business Hall of Fame. An induction ceremony, which is being hosted by Visa U.S.A. and the U.S. 11 Atlantic, will take place on March 19 in Washington, D.C.

As an automobile assembly line worker in Detroit, Berry Gordy dreamed of starting his own record company. He borrowed \$800 from his family and by 1964, Motown Records had its first million-dollar seller. Gordy's ear for talent resulted in the discovery of many musical legends who helped establish "The Motown Sound." In 1977, Motown was the largest Black-owned company in the United States. Gordy sold Motown for \$61 million in 1988.

These seven honorees join over 170 business leaders who have been inducted into the Junior Achievement National Business Hall of Fame since its founding in 1975. The inductees were selected by a survey of Forbes 500 CEOs which was conducted by Forbes magazine and Junior Achievement for their contributions to the world of business. The Hall of Fame is housed at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. Junior Achievement (JA) is the largest and fastest-growing nonprofit economic education organization in the world. Each year, over 2.7 million elementary, middle and high school students across the U.S. participate in JA programs. An additional 800,000 young people in 100 countries also take part in JA programs on an annual basis.



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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

SOMERSET—Whether, When & How to Start Your Own Business will be offered from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Summit Bank Building. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

PLAINFIELD—Anyone interested in starting a small business is encouraged to sign up for the Entrepreneurial Training Institute (ETI) course which will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Union County College. For more info, call 908-527-1166.

NORTH BRANCH—A workshop on Windows 95 will be offered at The Institute for Business and Professional Development from 8:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

NORTH BRANCH—A workshop on Word for Windows 95 will be offered at The Institute for Business and Professional Development from 12:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

SOMERSET—A free workshop on "Whether, When & How to Start My Own Business" will be offered at Summit Bank from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more info, call 908-218-8871. Please pre-register.

NORTH BRANCH—A seminar on the Introduction to Microsoft Excel 7.0 for Windows 95 will be offered at The Institute for Business and Professional Development from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

NEW YORK—A seminar on Technology will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Bell Atlantic. For more info, call 212-582-2334.

NORTH BRANCH—A seminar on How to Develop and Implement a Marketing Plan will be offered at The Institute for Business and Professional Development from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

PLAINFIELD—A Microsoft Windows Computer training class will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the YWCA. For more info, call 908-767-3500.

PATERSON—An Entrepreneurial Introductory Workshop will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at William Paterson University, Raritan Hall, Room 8315. For more info, call 609-292-1890.

NORTH BRANCH—A workshop on "Business Politics for Success" will be offered at The Institute for Business and Professional Development from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more info, call 908-218-8871.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

NEW BRUNSWICK—The NJ Association of Women Business Owners will have a networking, dinner and program at 5:15 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency. For more info, call 732-840-6980.

NEWARK—An Entrepreneurial Introductory Workshop will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. at PSEG, 2nd Floor. For more info, call 609-292-1890.

Treasury Department receives small business development award

WASHINGTON—The Treasury Department was honored by the National Association of Black Procurement Professionals (NABPP) for its support of small, minority and women-owned businesses.

The Treasury Department is proud to play a leadership role in outreach to small, minority and women-owned businesses," said Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin. "We are

committed to programs that foster business development and increase opportunities.

The Small Business Development Award is awarded on the basis of small business prime and subcontracting accomplishments during fiscal years 1994 through 1996. The Treasury Department was selected because it exceeded its goals in every category of awarding procurement

contracts based on both prime and subcontracts. This award recognizes the Treasury Department for establishing high goals for itself and awarding contracts to small, minority and women-owned businesses and exceeding those goals. The Treasury Department works to increase capital access and participation by small, minority and women-owned businesses in all aspects of Treasury's pro-

grams and procurement activities.

Founded in 1988, the NABPP is a Washington, D.C., based non-profit professional society. The NABPP's mission is to provide training, education and career development to procurement professionals, and provide business development services to the small business community.

Entrepreneurial ideas motivate women to start businesses

NEW YORK—The primary reason that women are launching new businesses is that they are inspired by an entrepreneurial idea. The next most frequent stated reason women give for starting their businesses is frustration with their previous work environment, according to a new study released by three prominent women's business organizations.

The report, "Paths to Entrepreneurship: New Directions for Women in Business," was sponsored by Salomon Smith Barney and is based on a nationally-representative survey of 800 women and men business owners.

The study sought to understand why the number of women-owned businesses in the United States is increasing at nearly twice that of the national average. "Women are most likely to start their own enterprises because they recognize opportunities to implement entrepreneurial ideas or do for themselves what they were doing for their employers," explained Lois Haines, CLU, ChFC, Chair of NEWBO and CEO of Delaware Valley Financial Services, Inc., Beryon, PA. "Forty-four percent of the women said this was their motivation."

The study also revealed dramatic changes during the past two decades. Women who started businesses over the last 10 years are more likely to have prior experience in professional or management positions than in clerical positions. The study also revealed that women increasingly cite frustration with the work environment as a factor.

"Women business owners are more likely to report having experienced specific frustrations in their work environment than men business owners—and these factors have increased in recent years," according to Sheila Wellington, President of Catalyst. "There have also been significant increases in the numbers of women entrepreneurs who cite being unchallenged in their previous job."

The "Paths to Entrepreneurship" survey also revealed the following:

- Most entrepreneurs had prior private sector career experience, with women business owners less likely to have come from a large corporate than men, and more likely to have nonprofit organization experience;
- Women who started businesses within the past 10 years are much more likely to come from management positions than clerical posts prior to starting their businesses;
- Women business owners are more likely to have started a business than to purchase one as compared with men business owners;
- Being one's own boss and having greater freedom are among the greatest rewards of entrepreneurship cited by women business owners, while dealing with employee problems and long hours are among the greatest dislikers.

For information about women-owned businesses, visit the National Foundation for Women Business Owners' home page, <http://www.nfwbo.org> or call 301-495-6975.

Women-owned businesses step up to the challenge

NEW YORK—Statistics show that women are continuing to open and run their own businesses. The net worth of these businesses is growing as well. The following are facts recorded by the National Foundation for Women Business Owners:

- As of 1996, there are nearly eight million women-owned businesses in the U.S., employing over 18.5 million people and generating close to \$2.3 trillion in sales.
- In 1996, women-owned firms accounted for over one-third of all firms in the country, and provide employment for one out of every four U.S. company workers.
- Between 1987 and 1996, the number of women-owned firms increased by

78 percent nationwide, employment increased by 183 percent, and sales grew by 236 percent; their growth outpaces overall business growth by nearly 2 to 1.

• One in eight of women-owned businesses in the U.S. is owned by a woman of color. These 1,967,600 minority women-owned firms employ 1,694,300 people and generate \$184.2 billion in sales.

• The top growth industries for women-owned businesses between 1987 and 1996 are construction, wholesale trade, transportation/communications, agriculture, and manufacturing.

• Women-owned businesses are more likely than all businesses to offer flextime, tuition reimbursement, and, at a much smaller size, profit sharing.

Guidance to those declaring personal bankruptcy

NEW BRUNSWICK—The New Jersey State Bar Foundation, the educational and philanthropic arm of the New Jersey State Bar Association, has prepared "A Basic Guide to Personal Bankruptcy" to aid individuals experiencing financial difficulties and are unsure of their options.

"Declaring bankruptcy is overwhelming for many people and they find it hard to make an informed decision," said New Jersey State Bar Foundation President Mary Lou Parker of the Morrisway law firm of Piney, Hardin, Kipp & Such. "The Foundation's bankruptcy pamphlet offers guidance if bankruptcy is chosen and discusses alternatives to proclaiming bankruptcy."

Written by American University professor Walter A. Effross, a member of the New Jersey Bar and a former member of the NJSBF Public Education Committee, the pamphlet offers practical information on various options when declaring bankruptcy. The pamphlet also contains sections on preparing a bankruptcy petition and advice on how to organize their information.

Mary Ellen Tully, a bankruptcy attorney and a partner in the West

Orange law firm of Rabinowitz, Treng, Lubetkin & Tully, noted that the bankruptcy pamphlet will provide an invaluable resource for bankruptcy attorneys.

"It provides a clear, simple and concise road map for client or anyone considering the alternatives, various chapters and steps to take in filing for personal bankruptcy," she said. "It also explicitly addresses the public's rights and remedies when dealing with the thorny issues involving bankruptcy petition preparers."

Free copies of "A Basic Guide to Personal Bankruptcy" are available through the New Jersey State Bar Foundation in single copies and bulk orders. For a copy and additional information about other Foundation publications and programs, call 1-800-FREE-LAW. The Foundation also offers free law-related seminars and seminars in other areas including personal, real estate, retirement planning and health issues.

Elderly get free tax preparation

ROSELAND—Free tax return preparation is again being offered this season to elderly and low income individuals through "Tax Aid," a volunteer program sponsored by the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJSCPA). Accountants for the Public Interest (API) and the IRS' Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

Income tax returns are prepared by CPA volunteers and accounting students from Rutgers University-Newark, Montclair State University and Jersey City State College. Tax Aid runs from now through April 13. These people taking advantage of

"Tax Aid" are requested to bring with them all pertinent information including their Social Security cards, W-2 forms, interest statements from banks, copies of their 1996 tax returns and the 1997 federal and state tax filing forms they received by mail. For more information, call 973-226-4494.

Celebrating 100 years of service to New Jersey, the NJSCPA is one of the oldest CPA Societies in the country. Founded in Newark in 1898, the Society is now one of the largest in the United States with over 14,000 members who work in business, industry, public practice, government and education.

African-American database on World Wide Web

INGLEWOOD, Calif.—The African-American Business Alliance has introduced the worldwide Internet Database of African-American Businesses, Churches, and Organizations. The database is available on the A-ABA website at www.aba.com.

This database is the result of a year-long effort by A-ABA's Director of Operations, Cynthia R. Locké. She says, "I want the African-American community to be empowered, and what that means to me is information and access. One of the complaints that we often hear at A-ABA is that we don't know where our businesses are, and outside of small community directories black businesses may indeed be hard to find and identify."

The goal of the African-American Business Alliance is to establish an attitude and environment that encourages African-Americans to work together. This will be accomplished in part by bringing the African-American consumer together with the African-American business person.

A-ABA is urging all African-Americans to access the database. Businesses, churches, and organizations in the African-American community are invited to register. Access and registration is free. By establishing a world wide identification process on the Internet, the legacy of African-American innovation and enterprise through visual recognition can be preserved.

For further information about the African-American Business Alliance, for your comments and questions, contact A-ABA on our web page or E-mail us at cllocke@aba.com or call 310-671-2222.

WLBI-AM features Bloomberg reports targeting African-American listeners

NEW YORK—WLBI (1190 AM) is the country's first radio station to feature live Bloomberg business reports targeted to an African-American audience. It was announced by Janie Washington, General Manager of WLBI.

Produced by the Bloomberg Radio Network, WLBI is airing custom Financial Market Updates that track the performance of companies and mutual funds that are owned or operated by African-Americans. The 10-second reports will run three times every business day.

This partnership with Bloomberg demonstrates WLBI's unwavering commitment to informing listeners about opportunities in the financial markets, especially those created by members of the African-American and Caribbean communities," Washington said. "We are not bound by quantitative surveys, but rather by the quality of our relationships with the listeners and the vast ethnically diverse communities we serve."

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Blacks respond to targeted financial services

According to a report by Packaged Facts, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: Deluxe Corporation, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

*Packaged Facts is a product of FIND/SVP Research Publications Group

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SBA Special Section
• Profiles of SBA clients
• Profiles of SBA top lenders
• Who's lending to minority businesses
• Applying for an SBA loan
• What lenders look for

2 MJB April:
Financing your business Part II
and
Black Investment Month
Profiles on:
• New Jersey Economic Development Authority
• New Jersey Development Authority
• Casino Reinvestment Authority
• New Jersey Reinvestment Authority

• Setting up an investment club
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Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

TEANECK—A prostate cancer support group will be held the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's Community Health Services Building. For more info, call 201-837-1850.

NEW BRUNSWICK—A breast feeding Support Group will be held today and March 18th at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's board room from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more info, call 732-937-8100.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Living with Cancer Support Group will meet today, the 11th and the 25th at 7 p.m. at the Cancer Institute of NJ. For more info, call 732-935-7577.

NEW BRUNSWICK—An infant care course will be held today, the 11th and the 18th. For info, call 732-937-8820.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

UNION—Join SeniorHealth for an afternoon of fun, food and laughter on a luncheon theater trip to see "Born Yesterday", showing at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. A bus will depart at 10:15 a.m. from the Union Hospital location of SeniorHealth and return at approximately 4 p.m. For more info, call 973-325-6503.

SOMERSET—A babysitting course will be held at the Franklin Public Library at 6:30 p.m. For more info, call 732-873-8746.

NEW BRUNSWICK—A Breast or Bottle Feeding class will be held at 7 p.m. at the Department of Family Medicine in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. For more info, call 732-828-3000.

NEW BRUNSWICK—A four-week course on Stress Management for Health and Happiness will be held at 7 p.m. at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's Director Center for Stress Management. For more info, call 732-828-3000.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

NEW BRUNSWICK—A Family with Manic Depression Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital's auditorium. For more info, call 732-937-8820.

LIVINGSTON—If you enjoy working with young children, consider volunteering for "Stepping Stones" - a program for children with Down's Syndrome, ages birth to five years. You will work with the same child each week. For further info, call 973-535-1181, ext. 1224.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

NEW BRUNSWICK—A "Panic and Anxiety Support Group" will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Moolten Conference Room at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. For info, call 732-828-3000.

March 3-9 is Juvenile Arthritis week

ISELIN—March 3-9 is Juvenile Arthritis Awareness Week, and during this week the Arthritis Foundation is launching a nationwide educational campaign to tell America that *Kids Get Arthritis, Too*.

According to the Foundation, if a child avoids using a particular limb, shows signs of stiffness, or complains about aching joints, it may not be just growing pains—it may be arthritis. Juvenile arthritis (JA) is a painful, sometimes debilitating condition that affects as many as 285,000 American children. But with early diagnosis and proper support, children and their families can learn to cope with JA and enjoy a full range of activities.

According to Conin, a child who has arthritis might find climbing steps, throwing a ball, opening a door, or even walking very difficult or impossible. Along with the pain, arthritis brings fatigue. Some children may have difficulties at school or with the rigorous activities of a field trip. Arthritis can be worse on some days than on others, flaring up when least expected. Using the theme *Kids Get Arthritis, Too*, the Arthritis Foundation's week-long awareness efforts will focus on elementary, junior high, and high schools by offering a variety of programs, including lesson plans for teachers and an educational coloring book and video for younger children.

"Sometimes it's difficult for parents, teachers, and schoolmates to come to grips with the special challenges faced by young people who have arthritis," Conin said. "But these problems are very real and very painful even if there are no outward signs of the illness, as is frequently the case. This is why education and awareness are so important."

The good news is that the outlook for children with JA is optimistic, even though there is no cure. Early diagnosis and proper treatment can go a long way in preventing significant disability in later years.

For a free booklet about JA entitled *Arthritis in Children*, call 908-283-4300 or 609-482-0600.

EDISON—Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), which coordinates the Legal Services system of non-profit, no-fee legal aid providers in the state, has announced the publication of "Lead Poisoning: What It Is and What You Can Do About It." The 60-page booklet, available in English and Spanish versions and designed for a general audience, contains information on preventing and recog-

nizing the signs of lead poisoning, as well as the legal rights of those who may be at risk from it. Produced with the help of a grant from the State Department of Human Services, Office for the Prevention of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, the booklet is available free of charge from LSNJ and the 14 local Legal Services programs serving all 21 counties of the state.

The new booklet is an updated version of one published in 1992 by LSNJ, as part of a community legal education program that publishes a newsletter, "Looking Out for Your Legal Rights," and a series of legal rights handbooks. In announcing the booklet's availability, Melville D. Miller, Jr., LSNJ president, noted that, "Lead poisoning prevention has long been a priority for LSNJ,

because those most at risk—poor children in older, substandard housing—are precisely the population served by Legal Services. This disease is still crippling our children."

According to Leighton Holness, the LSNJ senior attorney who coordinated the preparation of the new booklet, "It has been estimated that more than one-third of inner city African-American children are lead-

poisoned. Lead poisoning, which is also a threat to adults but most harmful to children, can cause mental retardation and behavior problems, harm physical development, and even lead to death."

Those interested in obtaining a copy of the lead poisoning prevention booklet should contact their local Legal Services office, or call LSNJ at 732-572-9100.

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Recently I had a cardiac catheterization and can't express how impressed I was with the care from all the people who treated me. Everyone at Muhlenberg was sincere, extremely kind and made me feel right at home. I tell everyone I meet that if they need to go to a hospital they should go to Muhlenberg. The care is tremendous.

-Jack Silcox
Cranford, NJ

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Artz Wednesday

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CITY NEWS 8

Billboard

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

NEW YORK—"Mama's Ghost," a love story with a couple twists will run through March 28th at the Trilogy Theatre. For more info, call 212-469-1632.

PARAMUS—A free poetry reading will be held at 8 p.m. at Borders Books & Music. For more info, call 201-712-1166.

SOUTH ORANGE—A free poetry reading will be held 7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, Caldor Shopping Center. For more info, call 973-812-0180.

NEWARK—Black American On Stage by the East Lynne Company will be performed at 10 a.m. at Newark Public Library. This event is free. For more info, call 201-863-6436.

JERSEY CITY—"The Glass Bead Game" will be shown through March 20th at the College in Artspace, Hapburn Hall, Jersey City State College from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info, call 201-200-3426.

UNION—A recital featuring Dr. Martha Marchena, pianist will be held for free at 12:00 at the Wilkens Theatre, Kean University. For more info, call 927-2107.

NEW YORK—The Fashion Institute of Technology Alumni Association will honor leaders in the fashion industry at its annual "Alumni Star Salute" at the United Nations. For more info, call 212-217-7542.

NEW YORK—Sing a Song of Ellington, a program of film clips spotlighting the work of Ella Fitzgerald, Anderson, Al Hibbler and other singers will be featured at Jazz at Lincoln Center. For more info, call 212-675-5299.

NEW BRUNSWICK—A free art exhibit will be on display at the Civic Square Building reviewing works by third year graduate students in the Visual Art Department from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

NEW BRUNSWICK—The engagement of "Crumbs From the Table of Joy" will be held at the Crossroads Theatre through March 29th. For more info, call 732-249-5563.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

PISCATAWAY—"Prelude to a Kiss" will be performed at the Circle Playhouse starting at 8:30 p.m. For more info, call 732-968-7555.

RANDOLPH—A free poetry reading will be held at 8 p.m. at Diviana. For more info, call 973-895-2661.

NEWARK—Electrifying dance from Mozambique will fill the air at the Victoria Theatre - NJ Performing Arts Center. Dance with "Musicians", National Song and Dance company of Mozambique at 8 p.m. For more info, call 1-888-GO-NJ-PA.

National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique

NEWARK—Electrifying dance from Mozambique will fill the stage on March 6 and 7 when the National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique presents a rousing program of traditional dance and music. Part of NJPAC's World Festival I—Portuguese Words and Ways (Ramon e Sons Portugueses)—the National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique's program will be presented at NJPAC's Victoria Theater.

The National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique has a repertoire that ranges from traditional dances and modern African ballet to choral and instrumental music, theater, poetical recitation and story telling, all of which take full advantage of Mozambique's rich and diverse national culture. Among the best known shows within the company's repertoire are: *Em Mozambique*, *O Sol Nasceu* (In Mozambique the Sun is Up Rising), a blend of several traditional dances; *The Great Festival*, an African ballet; and *N'asya*, a dance about family, fertile land, harvest and women as bread-winners of the family. All three of these works will be presented as part of the company's NJPAC program.

Comprised of 20-30 dancers under the leadership of artistic director Casimiro Nhessi and General Manager David Abilio Mondlane, the National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique was founded in 1979 when a group of young artists (dancers, musicians, actors, storytellers, etc.) joined to form an amateur dance troupe in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique.

The company's major goal has been to collect, preserve and value the major expressive art forms (especially dance, music and theater) of the various peoples of Mozambique. As the company was formed, outstanding performing artists were selected from each of the nation's 10 provinces. At least once a year, the company's members visit each part of Mozambique in order to learn new dances and songs that are then incorporated into the company's repertoire.

For further information, please call 1-888-GO-NJ-PA.



The Dance Company of Mozambique

Crossroads Theatre presents poignant memory play

•New playwright debuts at Crossroads

"Crumbs from the Table of Joy" is a witty and poignant memory play that recounts the life-shaping and attitude-altering events that occur during young Ernestine Crump's senior year in high school; including her family's move to Brooklyn and her father's fanatical devotion to Father Divine. The family dynamics virtually boil-over when her father falls in love with a German woman who looks like Marlene Dietrich.

This play is the current offering at Crossroads Theatre in New Brunswick through March 29. The author of the drama is Lynn Nottage, who is recognized as an emerging, new voice in the theatre world. Her newest work, "Mud, River, Stone" recently opened to



critical acclaim at Playwrights Horizons in New York City. "Crumbs from the Table of Joy" marks Nottage's playwrighting debut at Crossroads.

Performances from March 8 through 29 are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m. Weekday matinees are March 12, 18, 19, 25 and 26 at 11 a.m.

For individual tickets sales, call the Box Office at 732-249-5560. Groups of 20 should contact Ros Neal, Director of Group Sales at (732) 249-5581 ext. 17.

Ruby Dee's 'One Good Nerve'



Ruby Dee who stars in a one woman show "My One Good Nerve: A Visit With Ruby Dee" directed by Charles Nelson Reilly at the Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse, 66th St. and Lexington Ave. runs through March 8.

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Good Reading

Orders to Kill tells truth about King killing



In *Orders to Kill: The Truth Behind the Murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, Dr. William F. Pepper tells why he believes that the conviction of James Earl Ray was a miscarriage of justice. He also explains in detail how he reached the conclusion that Dr. King was shot by a Mafia-thrilled marksmen under the direction of federal agents while an Army Green Beret sniper team stood by to finish the hit. Pepper says "James Earl Ray was a patsy. He was moved around, told to do things, rent a room, be here, be there, buy some binoculars, buy a rifle. He was a fugitive, trying to get out of the country; there is a whole range of cumulative evidence I was able to look at."

During an investigation that has lasted for more than 18 years, William F. Pepper has interviewed witnesses long silenced by fear or conflicting loyalties. In *Orders to Kill* he presents a chilling story of conspiracy, raw power and ruthlessness.

I Have A Dream is outstanding children's literary work

I HAVE A DREAM
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
FORWARD BY CORETTA SCOTT KING



NEW YORK, NY—Scholastic's children's book *I Have A Dream* has received the 29th NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Children's Literary Work. *I Have A Dream* is the first illustrated edition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s seminal speech made at the March on Washington more than 30 years ago. The NAACP Image Awards are given annually in recognition of the positive portrayal and accomplishments of African-Americans in motion pictures, television, literature and recording.

In *I Have A Dream*, 15 Coretta Scott King Award and Honor Book artists complement Dr. King's immortal words with interpretive paintings in tribute to the life of the civil rights leader, including a timely foreword by Mrs. Coretta Scott King. *I Have A Dream* also features paintings depicting events in the Civil Rights Movement.



by Amanda R. Hunter

Scoop Du Jour

Polygram (including Motown Records) had a fabulous Grammy After Party at the exclusive New York Racquet Club in Manhattan. I was there, but to my dismay, I didn't see *Boyz II Men* who are awash in Grammy's by now. Oh well, the boys are large, that we know, especially since the arrival of the blow up posters that have been strategically plastered around Manhattan's trendiest neighborhoods.

Being the Biggest R&B group can't be easy and *Boyz II Men* should know this fact firsthand. Formerly, they were kids wearing Scottish-inspired outfits and carefully coordinated shoes. But now they are still Motown's biggest selling act ever. "Coolerhighamony" was a fun debut album, one that established them as stars. But their 1992 album "It's a Wonderful Life" catapulted them into the superstar category. The album sold over 11 million copies—more than any other Motown act in hipster, and it contained the hit singles like "I'll Make Love To You" and "On Benedic Kees."

Besides making hits, they also have knowledge about dealmaking. Can you just imagine doing such a lofty title without getting big-headed and unapproachable? The soulful quartet

seemed to have kept their feet on the ground somehow. At a recent press conference, I asked the Men what they thought their responsibilities were as artists signed to such a legendary label and group member Nathan Morris responded: "As far as the promise of the Motown thing, it's an obligation that we need to do. We don't need to let this label of black hope fade away. We need to make it as strong and prominent as it can possibly be."

The *Boyz* (along with Head Brotha In Charge George Jackson) are taking Motown where it needs to be. As a group, they've grown into producers and songwriters and their third album, *Evolution*, is noteworthy. If you haven't purchased your copy yet, fall on to the record store without hesitation to get one, because the first two singles that have been released, "4 Seasons of Loneliness" and "Mama" aren't representative of the hip hop influenced cuts on the album. Soul, and I mean soul-stirring soul, the type that widens your nostrils and warms your eyes like you've just inhaled onion vapors—dominates the majority of the album.

But back to the swelling of their pockets issue... people who live outside

of New York may not know that the group has the majority financial interest in The Motown Café. They also have their own label, Stonework, which is being distributed through Sony Music. I wish them the best of luck with this album. Like I said, the best songs have yet to be released as singles, so check it out.

The richest men at Motown: *Boyz II Men* consists of, from left, Shawn Stockman, Michael McCary, Wanya Morris and Nathan Morris.

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Local Briefs

Direct 'Access 2000' names director

ELIZABETH—Susan Pepper, a former president of the Westfield Board of Education, has been named director of Access 2000.

The three-year, \$3 million partnership between the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the state's public school districts provides matching resources to purchase computers with cutting-edge programs and Internet access, and to train teachers. It is modeled after an extremely successful initiative in Camden County.

"Workplace readiness is an important component of our county's economic development plan," said Freeholder Chairman Dan Sullivan, explaining that Access 2000 will work with local school districts to provide 71,000 public school students with the necessary technological tools to meet the challenges of the next century.

Assembly approves measure establishing local-state incentive for employers

TRENTON—The Assembly has approved an incentive program that Assembly Associate Minority Leader Wilfredo Carballo sponsored to help local governments attract and retain businesses.

"This measure would bring together state, county and local governments to attract jobs," said Carballo (D-Essex). "Instead of having several agencies working in competition with each other or duplicating each other's efforts, this program would encourage a smooth, coordinated effort to stimulate economic growth."

The Local-State Business Incentive Program Fund would provide local and incentive grants to counties and municipalities. The funds would be available on a matching fund basis with \$1 coming from outside sources for every \$2 coming from the program. The measure would complement two existing programs.

Newark Municipal Council sponsors "Families 2000"

NEWARK—The Fourth Annual Newark Women's Conference will be held March 20-21. Last year over 200 women participated in what was called "an unforgettable experience," whose goal was to encourage and motivate women to succeed.

This year's theme is "Families 2000" and our purpose is to bring families together. The Women's Conference will once again be sponsored by Councilwoman Mildred C. Crump. The Newark Women's Conference, and the Newark Municipal Council, Councilwoman Crump planned and directed the three previous successful conferences. Women would like to see both men and women cross ethnic, socio-economic, cultural and all superficial barriers that prevent us from being effective and successful with other." said Crump. The objective, as in all past years, is to encourage women to fulfill their potential and help them achieve their goals in life.

For more information, call Kim Gaddy at 973-733-5871 or Astera Argys at 973-733-5873.

Irvington Police restructuring is underway

IRVINGTON—The Irvington Police Department is implementing organizational changes in compliance with the findings and recommendations of a report by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General/Division of Criminal Justice, which conducted a comprehensive one-year operational audit of the department.

Just four months after receiving the results, "we have made significant progress in the modification of operating procedures to maximize the delivery of services," according to Steven Palmer, chief and acting director of the IPD.

The department in January completed reorganization of patrol assignments, based on the state's findings that 47 percent of citizens' calls for assistance occur daily between 3 p.m. and 11 p.m.; 29 percent occur between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.; and 24 percent are logged between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. According to Palmer, twelve patrol cars now are assigned to the busiest shift.

Fires in Newark lowest in 30 years

NEWARK—When a homeless man lost his life in a fire on South 11 Street earlier this month, his death marked the first fire fatality in Newark this year compared to five over the same period in 1997.

According to 1997 numbers provided by Fire Department Captain Stanley Kosko, confirmed total fires were down eight percent, structural fires were down 10 percent, vehicle fires 17 percent, and false alarms by 35 percent over 1997 figures.

"To further strengthen the department's efforts, 21 new firefighters will be hired and an additional seven officers promoted this spring.

Irvington adds nine to police force

IRVINGTON—A group of nine recruits, a third of whom are women, recently became Irvington's newest police officers.

With one exception, the officers will begin official training upon the completion of an 18-week training program, that began in January at the Essex County Police Academy in Cedar Grove.

Steven Woodard, 28, graduated from the academy in June 1996. He will begin patrol duties after a brief period of training. Previously, Woodard was a four-year member of the U.S. Marine Corps. He continues to serve in the USMC Reserve and attends Essex County College.

Tonya Marino, 25, has a background in computer electronics and currently serves in the National Guard. She has been a student at Essex College and a member of the U.S. Navy.

Twenty-two-year-old Juan Gonzalez is a native of the Philippines. His brother is also an Irvington police officer.

Ernest Ed, a native of Haiti, is 26 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business from Blomfield College.

In what Mayor Sara B. Bost described as a "family affair," Diane Eichen, 32, is married to a Newark police officer. The mother of two children.

NBCD gets grant from Prudential Foundation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Prudential Foundation recently awarded a two-year \$330,000 grant to the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) in support of the Institute's African American Early Childhood Resource Center.

The African American Early Childhood Resource Center is a seminal project designed by NBCDI to improve child care through leadership development. A 1993 study by NBCDI found that African American early childhood professionals experience fewer career development opportunities than their peers. According to the study, the lack of leadership skills compromises the quality of child care while also limiting opportunities for Blacks to influence early childhood policies and practices.

The Institute's president, Evelyn K. Moore, says, "The Resource Center is a catalyst for improving child care systems, occurring at a time when the need for quality child care has never been greater." She continues, "NBCDI appreciates the Prudential Foundation's generous support of our initiative to address quality through diversity."

Through the resource center, NBCDI is providing the child care profession with a comprehensive approach for expanding leadership. The approach is based on NBCDI's research: effective leadership positions are generally reached through one or more of the following pathways: including Career Opportunities; Professional Preparation; and Technical Assistance.

In keeping with those pathways, the center will promote leadership diversification by operating a Diversity Database; a Registry of African American Early Childhood Leaders; a Mentoring Program; a Network of African American Early Childhood Leaders, and a series of Leadership Diversity Institutes and Consultations.



Union County's "Women of Excellence" include, clockwise Dr. Barbara Wheeler, Juliane Miller-Armbrister, Mary Ann Fulmore and Sgt. Gail Smith.

County Division of Employment and Training, but she is better known for her activity with the National Association of University Women. Fulmore is also a member of Shiloh Baptist Church in Plainfield, where she edits the church newsletter and is part of its welcoming committee.

Chosen as the recipient in the area of health care, Juliane W. Miller-Armbrister has helped many in Union County and serves as a consultant to several non-profit organizations. Smith's husband, Dr. Robert Smith, has been with Plainfield Neighborhood Health Services for 10 years and is currently the organization's president and CEO.

The recipient in the area of Law Enforcement, Sgt. Gail Smith of the Plainfield Police Department has given exemplary service to her department and the community. She helped to establish the Sheriff's school-based youth program, which has reached out to more than 4,000 young people in high crime areas. The program is an acknowledged success by school principals, guidance counselors and juvenile officers.

Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich wrote a glowing and enthusiastic nomination letter in Smith's behalf. He wrote that she "serves as an ideal role model for young women and minorities."

Noting her membership in the Plainfield Area Ebony Police Association, and her work for the past eight years as an instructor at the University of California at Los Angeles, she earned master's and doctoral degrees from Columbia University.

Dr. Wheeler's program shows the world-class talent and resources Kean University has to offer," said Union County Freeholder Louis Mingo. "Known around the city of Plainfield for her activity in civic organizations, Maryann Fulmore was chosen as a Women of Excellence for her work in the area of Women's Advocacy. She is coordinator of the Discretionary Grants Unit of the Union



Irvington Mayor Sara B. Bost, in photo at bottom row, far left, welcomed the nine recruits to the Irvington Police Department. They are, from bottom row, left to right, Steven Woodard, Tonya Marino, Juan Gonzalez, Kimiko Woods and Leonard Turley. In the top row from left, Ernest Ed, Henna LaCosta, Diane Eichen and Elgin James. At bottom right are Steven Palmaria, chief and acting director of the IPD, in bottom row, far right and Rev. John McLain, IPD chaplain, in top row, far right.

graduate of Essex Catholic High School. Woods graduated from St. Vincent's Academy and attended St. Vincent's University. She was a corrections officer for the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

The brother/sister team of Leonard Turley, 22, and Kimiko Woods, 29, were also sworn in. Turley is a 1993

Briefings set for school board candidates

TRENTON—New Jersey's county school boards associations will sponsor briefing sessions for local school board candidates during March and April. Coordinated by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the four regional programs will address the structure and responsibilities of local school boards.

Participants will receive information on policy-making, school administration, school finance and budgeting, school-community relations, collective bargaining, and relations among the superintendent and staff.

NJSBA President Beulah M. Womack promised candidates it would be a time well spent.

"To be an effective board member, one first needs to be a good student," said Womack. "The responsibilities of the board member have become increasingly complex. Candidates who take time to learn about those responsibilities now will be much better equipped to serve later."

Dates and locations of the briefings, as well as telephone numbers to call to register or to receive more information, are as follows:

Tuesday, March 10, 7 p.m.
West Essex Regional High School, 60 West Greenbrook Road, North Caldwell, 973-403-3434. (Sponsored by the school boards associations of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Union, and Warren counties.)

Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m.
North Brunswick Twp. High School, 98 Ridder Road, North Brunswick, (732) 731-1111. (Sponsored by the school boards associations of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset counties.)

Monday, March 23, 7 p.m.
Williamstown H. S., 700 North Tuckahoe Road, Monmouth Twp. Gloucester Co., (609) 346-2500. (Sponsored by the school boards associations of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem counties.)

Tuesday, April 7, 7 p.m.
Brick Township High School, 326 Chambers Bridge Road, Brick, (732) 446-5900. (Sponsored by Ocean County School Boards Association.)

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Newark gets tax decrease and drop in water

NEWARK—As promised during his recent State of the City Address, Mayor Sharpe James introduced his 1998 Municipal Budget which reflects a five percent drop in the City's tax rate from \$23.86 per \$100 of assessed municipal budget.

The total budget, including the school and county appropriations is \$517 million down from last year's \$546 million.

In surprise move, the Mayor announced that the spending plan also includes an overall reduction in the City's water rate for all users, approximately 14 cents per 1,000 cubic feet. This cut is in addition to the 10 percent reduction for water rates pledged to senior citizen homeowners.

"We plan to put money back into the hands of our deserving taxpayers," James affirmed. He said he was able to make the cuts because, "under my leadership, Newark has extended a firm, conservative fiscal policy. Our right control over our budget puts Newark in a much stronger position than our neighboring cities, which have enormous debt payments."

Newark's robust financial health can be attributed to a strong state and federal economy, according to James, and the fact that taxes and various municipal fees were paid in a timely manner in 1997, thus reducing the reserve the City must keep for uncollected taxes.

He also credited the stability of Newark's assessed valuations over the last year and recent bond rating increase—the fourth in the last 10 years—for the City's economic health.

The Mayor outlined several police programs he intends to implement in this year's budget, including a program where the Police Department will monitor young people, who have been adjudicated by the courts. The Police also will initiate an Asset Forfeiture Program, which will allow them to confiscate property from persons involved in drug activities and quality of life violations.

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